

Memorandum



Date: November 8, 2006

To: Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burges
County Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Burges", written over the printed name "George M. Burges".

Subject: Appointment of Miami-Dade Housing Agency Director

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Kris Warren as the Director of Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA) effective December 4, 2006. The appointment of Ms. Warren, the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Tampa Housing Authority, follows a national search to recruit a strong leader to overhaul the County's housing programs. I am confident that Ms. Warren has the experience, know-how and talent to move us forward. And, while it cannot happen overnight, I know Ms. Warren shares our commitment to move in a direction that will fast-track the delivery of the County's housing initiatives.

I expect Ms. Warren to initially focus on internal issues aimed at improving operating processes and controls at the agency. We must put our own house in order before we can be truly effective in achieving the right results in our housing programs. Ms. Warren will need to establish her own management team and, through her leadership, re-energize MDHA employees. Ms. Warren has acquired a solid understanding of the many challenges facing MDHA through her involvement with the team of professionals that has provided technical assistance to the MDHA Management Assistance Team that has been overseeing the day to day operations of MDHA since July.

Ms. Warren, who has over 15 years of experience with housing issues, brings a unique skill set to Miami-Dade. She has experience on both policy matters and regulatory compliance along with a strong background in housing management. Ms. Warren has been the driving force behind the significant improvements by the Tampa Housing Authority in recent years that has earned it a high performer rating for the last two years for its Section 8 and Public Housing operations by the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development (US HUD). In her current capacity, she has successfully implemented federal rules related to asset management for public housing programs and doubled the size of Section 8 voucher program. Ms. Warren was invited by US HUD to participate in the asset management rulemaking and other US HUD public review committees related to proposed changes in affordable housing.

In Tampa, Ms. Warren has successfully been involved in the creation of public-private partnerships that have increased affordable housing opportunities. This includes the creation of a new 501(c)(3) to enhance fundraising activities and involvement with nonprofit organizations that serve as operational extensions of the Tampa Housing Authority. She also brings experience in the development of HOPE VI and mixed-finance projects. Ms. Warren has extensive knowledge of US HUD rules and regulations and is an active participant at the state and federal level in the ongoing discussions related to legislative and regulatory changes. She serves as Vice-Chair to the Legislative Committee of the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials and has hosted three of the last five Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials state conferences.

Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
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Page 2

Previously, Ms. Warren served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of US HUD where she managed the recovery efforts of some of the largest public housing authorities including Chicago, San Francisco and Puerto Rico. In that capacity, she worked with community and political leadership in each jurisdiction to assess the root causes of the individual agency's troubled status and to develop and implement recovery plans. She also traveled across the United States to evaluate the status of numerous projects funded under the HOPE VI Revitalization Grant program. Ms. Warren was involved with the implementation of the HOPE VI program including the development of the regulatory and monitoring process and created the first US HUD/HOPE VI annual conference, an event that was held each year during the Assistant Secretary's tenure. Prior to her work with the Assistant Secretary, Ms. Warren was a Professional Staff Member on the U.S. Senate Housing and Urban Affairs Subcommittee where she was involved in the passage of major legislation related to housing, transit, community development and other related issues.

The recruitment for the Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA) Director began on August 7, 2006, with a national search conducted by Bennett Yarger Associates that yielded in excess of 140 applicants. After thoroughly reviewing the resumes of the 20 leading candidates, six were invited to meet with the Screening Committee. Candidates were also afforded a brief tour of selected public housing sites and an opportunity to interact with members of the MDHA Management Team. Of these six highly qualified candidates, the Screening Committee recommended three finalists for my consideration. On October 31, 2006, I met with these candidates and was impressed with their strong qualifications and high degree of professionalism.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Warren and extending our full support to her as she continues the important work initiated by the MDHA Management Assistance Team. Ms. Warren will be available to meet with you at your convenience.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Circuit and County Courts
 Honorable Joseph P. Farina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit
 Honorable Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, State Attorney
 Honorable Bennett Brummer, Public Defender
 Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney
 Assistant County Managers
 Department Directors
 Marvin O'Quinn, President, Public Health Trust
 Robert Meyers, Executive Director, Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
 Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General
 Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor